

requested; and shall conform with the requirements of subpart H of this part.

(d) Oral argument upon a written motion may be permitted at the discretion of the presiding officer or the Commission, as the case may be.

(e) A repetitious motion will not be entertained. [Rule 73.]

§ 502.74 Replies to pleadings, motions, applications, etc.

(a)(1) Except as provided under subpart V of this part, a reply to a reply is not permitted.

(2) Except as otherwise provided respecting answers (§ 502.64), shortened procedure (subpart K of this part), briefs (§ 502.221), exceptions (§ 502.227), replies to petitions for attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act (§ 502.503(b)(1)), and the documents specified in paragraph (b) of this section, any party may file and serve a reply to any written motion, pleading, petition, application, etc., permitted under this part within fifteen (15) days after the date of service thereof, unless a shorter period is fixed under § 502.103.

(b) When time permits, replies also may be filed to applications for enlargement of time and postponement of hearing (subpart G of this part), and motions to take depositions (§ 502.201).

(c) Replies shall be in writing, shall be verified if verification of original pleading is required, shall be so drawn as to fully and completely advise the parties and the Commission as to the nature of the defense, shall admit or deny specifically and in detail each material allegation of the pleading answered, shall state clearly and concisely the facts and matters of law relied upon, and shall conform to the requirements of subpart H of this part. [Rule 74.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 28264, July 29, 1987; 61 FR 66617, Dec. 18, 1996]

§ 502.75 Proceedings involving assessment agreements.

(a) In complaint proceedings involving assessment agreements filed under the fifth paragraph of section 15 of the Shipping Act, 1916, or section 5(d) of the Shipping Act of 1984, the Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment will specify a date before which the ini-

tial decision will be issued, which date will be not more than eight months from the date the complaint was filed.

(b) Any party to a proceeding conducted under this section who desires to utilize the prehearing discovery procedures provided by subpart L of this part shall commence doing so at the time it files its initial pleading, i.e., complaint, answer or petition for leave to intervene. Discovery matters accompanying complaints shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for service pursuant to § 502.113. Answers or objections to discovery requests shall be subject to the normal provisions set forth in subpart L.

(c) Exceptions to the decision of the presiding officer, filed pursuant to § 502.227, shall be filed and served no later than fifteen (15) days after date of service of the initial decision. Replies thereto shall be filed and served no later than fifteen (15) days after date of service of exceptions. In the absence of exceptions, the decision of the presiding officer shall be final within thirty (30) days from the date of service, unless within that period, a determination to review is made in accordance with the procedures outlined in § 502.227. [Rule 75.]

§ 502.76 Brief of an amicus curiae.

(a) A brief of an amicus curiae may be filed only by leave of the Commission or the presiding officer granted on motion with notice to the parties, or at the request of the Commission or the presiding officer, except that leave shall not be required when the brief is presented by the United States or any agency or officer of the United States. The brief may be conditionally filed with the motion for leave. A brief of an amicus curiae shall be limited to questions of law or policy.

(b) A motion for leave to file an amicus brief shall identify the interest of the applicant and shall state the reasons why such a brief is desirable.

(c) Except as otherwise permitted by the Commission or the presiding officer, an amicus curiae shall file its brief within the time allowed the party whose position as to affirmance or reversal the amicus brief will support. The Commission or the presiding officer shall grant leave for a later filing only